after having contracted tetanus due to burn injuries sustained by them when they were branded with hot irons on various parts of their body; and

(b) whether the Central Government propose to take up the matter with the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Attention of the State Government of Gujarat has been drawn to the matter and they have been requested to send a report.

Reinforcement of State Police Forces by Central Forces

2776. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which requisitioned the services of Central forces to reinforce their police forces during the communal disturbances in the last three years; and

(b) the reasons for which the Central forces had to be called upon to assist the local police forces on each occasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh requisitioned Central Forces during communal disturbances/tensions in the last three years.

(b) On all occasions, the Central Forces were sent for assisting the local police for dealing with the situation and for maintaining peace in troubled areas. In addition, the Peace Keeping Force Bns. of CRPF undertook repairs of houses, religious places, shops, roads, street lights, etc. and also gave medical aid to victims.

Sikh separatist leaders on U.S. payroll

2777. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 4th August, 1984 under the caption 'Dhillon and Chauhan on US payroll' wherein it has been stated that Ganga Singh Dhillon and Jagjit Singh Chauhan—leaders of the separatist Sikh movement are on the payroll of the US Defence Intelligence Agency;

(b) whether it is a fact that the names of these two extremists are reported to have figured in accounts books of US Defence Intelligence Agency;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Chauhan is reported to be on the payroll of the British intelligence as well; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Government have seen the news item which appeared in the "Hindustan Times of 4th August, 1984.

(b) Government do not have precise information. The US State Department has issued a denial of the contents of the article. The State Department have also reiterated that the USA supports the unity, stability and territorial integrity of India.

(c) Government do not have precise information.

(d) Government are watchful and as in the past, will continue to safeguard national interests and security.

Accumulation of stocks by tube manufacturers and cold rolling units

2778. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some tube manufacurers and cold rolling

units with valid import licences were found accumulating stocks of hot rolled coils and some other items taking advantage of the competitive prices allowed to them for indigenous products;

(b) whether Government have taken measures to curb profiteering by certain tube manufacturers and cold rolling units on supply of indigenous steel items in lieu of imported ones; and

(c) if so, what are the details and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (c) With a view to curbing avoidable imports and to encourage off-take of certain indigenous items including HR Coils, a scheme was introduced in December, 1982 whereby SAIL undertook to supply indigenous material against surrender of valid import licences. It was only when SAIL was unable to supply the indigenous material that imports were permitted against specific non availability certificates. Due to recent shortfalls in indigenous production of HR Coils, SAIL has now been issuing non availability certificates to facilitate direct imports.

No specific instances of cornering of stocks have come to the notice of Government.

Burning of the office of a Punjabi weekly in Southall-London

2779. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the premises of a Punjabi weekly in Southall, London were burnt down and its editor was seriously injured on the 23rd July, 1984;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the injured editor later succumbed to injuries; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up by the Indian High Commission in London with the British Government;

(d) whether any of the assailants have since been arrested; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for which the British Government are not showing keen interest in apprehending the culprits; and

(e) what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Early in the morning of July 24, 1984, the building housing the offices of "Sandesh International", a Punjabi weekly, owned and edited by Mr. Ajit Sat Bhambra, a British citizen was set on fire. Mr. Kartar Singh Tar, a member of the Editorial Board, who was sleeping on the premises sustained sixty per cent burns. He succumbed to his injuries on the night of August 1/2, 1984. Mr. Tar was an Indian national who was in the U.K. on a three-year work permit.

(c) Following the death of Mr. Tar, our High Commission in London took up the matter with the British Foreign Office on August, 3 through a note verable, which *inter alia* stated that "the High Commission is gravely concerned over the tragic death of one of India's citizens in a climate of escalating tension and violence which apparently has not been adequately checked. The High Commission therefore has the honour to request the British authorities to institute an effecive and expeditious investigation followed by stern and deterrent punishment so that such incidents could be avoided in future".

(d) According to Government's information, no arrests have been made so far. The owner of the paper, Mr. Bhambra is reported to be in touch with the British Police. Our High